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APR 27 1987
Vol. 4, No. 11

CROWN

REDEEMER COLLEGE

Bye-Bye

THE

LAST 86-87 ISSUE

ERICK'S LAMENT

Erick Schuringa

The last Crown was supposed to be dedicated to student, professor and administration comments on the first year at the new campus. President DeBolster was the only respondent, but the essence of student response dwelt soundlessly in the void on page twenty-five. What a statement for the students to make: "We don't have anything to say about our experiences here".

The apathy of Redeemer students has been exemplified over and over again this year. Not only are there no comments in the Crown, but the cafeteria is often empty (especially if soup is not being served) and hockey games were sparsely attended. I pick these two aspects of student life because they characterized the unity of the student body of yesteryear. Though there were bright spots of unity, such as the Banquet and the Talent Night, students of Redeemer seem to have found the expanded learning quarters to have stretched their paths to make interaction less probable. The difference in mutual awareness among students is best depicted by comparing Beach Boulevard's post-chapel hallway jamming with the express exit now possible. Students just do not have to bump into each other anymore!

However, there is one point of unity among Redeemer College students--complaints and negative comments. It seems that we are characterizing ourselves after the perennial Scrooge. That is not to say that money is the only object of our dissatisfaction, for workload and administration get their fair share of the pickings, too. Now, complaining has its place, namely, as a means to remedy; but complaining and apathy have no place holding hands. Scrooge sees the Christmas spirit as a waste of time, but nothing changes for him because he offers no alternatives, and likewise at Redeemer College. Furthermore, Scrooge makes it obvious that he is not happy with happiness, and likewise at Redeemer. Negative comments about Redeemer College is unfortunately the most effective PR. No one likes to miss out on a little mud-slinging; ever experienced dorm raiding? Prospective students remember negative comments, so why make them? Let's really think about what kind of experience Redeemer College has been for us, admitting the mistakes without emphasizing them. Complaining in apathy is the easiest route, but not the most honest. If you are feeling bogged down at Redeemer, drop an elective--for example: Complaining in Apathy 100 - no credits.

Next year's Student Council's Student Concerns will show you how to complain.

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The Crown is the Redeemer College newspaper designed to be a source of information, education, and a voice for the students of Redeemer College. We invite students, staff and faculty to read and contribute to this paper. The opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of the student body, faculty or administration.

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PRESSING ON

Beth-Anne Bakker

In the last issue of the Crown, Richard Wikkerink wrote an article "Concerning Student Council". His article has spurred me on to formulate some of my own ideas and thoughts concerning Student Council. I would like to share some of these ideas with you. I realize that my views are somewhat biased and I know that they can easily be used to boost and defend my own ego, rather than painting a fair picture of the council and its role. I will leave it to you to reject the ego-boosters.

One of the questions I have been asking as I looked over our year and as I read Richard's article is, "What is our prime task and goal as a Student Council?" In the last month, we as a council have been working through the constitution and making amendments to it. The constitution states that the role of the council is, and I quote, "...to serve as a means to foster and nurture all aspects of Student Life, in supporting the confessional direction of Redeemer College. It is also to serve as a liason between students and administration." I appreciate the wording of this role, for it places the task of liason in a much larger framework. The role of liason becomes an interwoven part of the larger task of nurturing all aspects of Student Life.

In this context, I began looking at the actual meaning of "liason", and I began to wonder if we have narrowed its meaning to bringing issues and fighting for the rights of the student body against an "overpowering administration". If this is the meaning we have, the word and the role takes on a connotation of defense and fighting. If anything, such a definition and task only adds to the tensions and harmful attitudes that a true liason is supposed to heal.

The "true" meaning of liason is, "a close bond or connection, in which intercommunication takes place in order to ensure and maintain understanding and unity of action". I do not know how many of you feel this way, but I see beginnings toward such a connection between students and administration. To make this concrete, I would like to give you a few examples. I would like to start with myself, and then move on to the school as a whole.

During the summer, I realized I was going to have to work fairly closely with Cor Kors during the year. I did not know how I was ever going to get along with him, let alone talk and meet with him once a week. Over the year, things have changed quite a bit. I look forward to those meetings; we have learned to respect each other (or at least one of us has) and we have learned how to work with each other. Strong-willed fighting (perhaps in the sense of an earlier definition of liason) just does not work. If he comes down on something hard, I buck it, and if he feels like I am telling him what to do or backing him into a corner, he refuses. Yet, I feel that if anything else, a close bond or connection has been established between us--a liason in the true sense?

Out of such a relationship, he begins to understand who a student is and in turn, I as a student begin to understand the role of administration. I think that it is out of this mutual understanding that unity of action can come.

I realize that things are not yet perfect in the realm of students and administration. I sense that at times there is not mutual understanding even when attempts are made, and yet I feel that if we look over the year, this relationship has improved since the fall (or am I being unrealistic here?) I see people in administration reaching out: eg. letters from the president (it is not a complete answer, but it is a step), updates of important decisions made at various meetings, assemblies for tuition structures,

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more lenient rules for senior residences. These are some of the formal steps. Some of the less formal steps which add to establishing a connection are probably even more important. A real bridge-builder for me was their part in the banquet. Seeing the general office actively involved, laughing at themselves and at us was (at least for me) a real healer. Let me give another example: the other night Dean Payton was out rollerskating with us. Now I am not about to say that the administration ought to become buddy-buddywith the students, nor that rollerskating is going to solve deep issues, but yetI see the importance of it. For then relationships begin, we see each other as we are, and mutual understanding can take root.

Then activities take on a new light. They act as springboards for establishing a close connection--a liason. For example, Springfest was an activity day in which we were involved with the administration. The day was a creative attempt to deal with recruitment. The feeling of different parts of one school pulling together to help solve a problem was a "good connection". Talent Night was another activity meant to be more than "entertainment". It was an outreach to the community, especially to the Ancaster church, to say "Thanks for all that you have done for us." Areas of service and stewardship established through volunteering and recycling projects became important for nurturing all aspects of student life. Through such activities comes a certain pride in who we are; there comes a close connection between us as students, between students and administration, between the college and the community, and between the college and God. In this way I no longer see activities as being a surface-coating for deeper problems. Instead they become ground breakers or springboards for establishing better and deeper relations, closer connections, better liason.

Perhaps it has seemed that we have not emphasized students' concerns enough. I do not feel that we have done less work in this area than previous years. I do think that some of those on the council have really excelled in other areas. As a result it may seem that our emphasis is there. I would not say that this is the case. Our goal has been to nurture, to serve and to establish connections. When some areas run ahead in their race for the goal, it does not mean that the others are walking backwards; rather, they are jogging at a slower pace.

I realize there have been weaknesses in the council, that we are not yet perfect and yet I know that we have run hard, and that we have pressed on towards the goal.

I would like to end with a quote from Philippians 3:

> Not that we have already obtained all this or have already been made perfect, but we press on, to take hold of what Christ took hold of for us. Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, we press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called heaven-ward in Christ Jesus.

To next year's council and to all, I challenge you to press on towards the goal: to win the prize for which we have been called.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Student Publications Committee requests applications for the positions of **Yearbook Editor** and **Crown Editor** for the 1987-1988 school year. Please send your resume, consisting of experience, qualifications, and ideas for next year's publications, to:

Corstian Devos, Chairman,
Student Publications Committee
via student mail.

P.S. Experience is not the end all and be all. We will provide training and guidance if necessary.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

As the school year winds down to a close there is that temptation to take that final unanswerable potshot at some "pet peeve." There are still a few issues to be addressed, still a few words to be written, and still improvements that can be made in Administration, Student Council, the student body, and, yes, believe it or not, the Crown.

Yet the last issue of this year's Crown is not the place for such cheap posturings. Indeed, it is in the final issue that we look back at the year past and reflect upon the events that transpired. We look not at what has yet to be done, but at what has been accomplished.

Babs, our revered Student Council President, may have written what could be construed as a defensive article, but its spirit of review is in keeping with that of this last issue of the Crown. As students, administration, and faculty looking back upon the year, what sticks in our minds is what has been accomplished and the distance we have come since the school year's beginning. We have survived gaps in communication, blackouts, floods, misinterpretations, and a host of other difficulties that prevent the smooth interaction of the various entities that make up Redeemer College.

This first year on the new campus has been a learning year, a year of adjustment to new procedures and (yes, don't say it) new committees. As students we have had to learn once more the procedures for dealing with a "new" bureaucracy. Once more we have had to establish who does what and determine which buttons to push to get the best and the quickest responses (though quick does not necessarily coincide with best).

As Administration, the new procedures also required some getting use to. Just as the students were feeling their way around a new bureaucracy, so were those inside that bureaucracy. Questions such as, "How far does my authority go?" (Not far!), and "Who is supposed to do this?" (Who knows?!), were frequently asked, even by those within the Administration.

Yet things slowly sorted themselves out, and the give and take needed in any bureaucracy slowly crept in. Ways to speed up certain procedures and the extent to which individual initiative would be tolerated were ascertained. What at first seemed like a monolithic bureaucracy slowly came to have a human face.

Faculty, caught in the middle ground, suffered stoically. Not being students and not being Administration, they suffered at times of not being able to express their frustrations with the new "goings on." Flooded and requisitioned, they have survived, learning in the process how to work within the system as it pertains to them.

In the past school year, the community that was Redeemer College, Beach Boulevard became Redeemer College, Ancaster. It has changed and adapted to new surroundings and the student community especially has had to adjust to being "on Campus" and not "on Francis Road". The new students, of course, do not know the difference and most likely are tired of hearing "On Francis Road..." or "At Beach Boulevard...."

As part of this year's graduating class (I hope), this year has been especially meaningful to me. It has been my last. From here I must go bravely where I have not gone before. Yet I carry with me the memories of my Redeemer College days.I suppose that I am beginning to sound sappy and nostalgic, but these things are true. I leave here with memories and wonder if I will be able to maintain some of the friendships that have come to mean so much to me.

The next year is one of new changes and new experiences, not only for the other graduates and myself, but for all here at Redeemer. Redeemer students now get

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IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

Giving Glory to God

Ernie Langendoen

"May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21b)

The high-priestly prayer that Christ prays before his death is a powerful proclamation of the reason for his coming to earth. The overriding theme is to bring glory to God. Whether he is praying for himself, for his disciples, or for all believers, Christ continually reasserts the emphasis of glorification to God, whether it be to the Father or whether it be to himself, the Son. I would like to focus in on one aspect of that glorification: the life of a believer is glorifying to God.

Christ prays powerfully for his disciples and for all who come to believe that they may be living manifestations of Christ. Our lives need to reflect the truth of the love of Christ; the world ought to be able to look at us and recognize that we are ambassadors for Christ.

This is not so easy. The rich young ruler turned sadly away when Christ gave him a choice, to follow him or to hold on to his riches. We North American Christians ought to keep this mind. So often we demand thta we have our "rights"--our right to an education, our right to a decent job, our right to a house, our right to choose our own government. Christ makes it clear that there is only own right--glorify God. Rights can become destructive--my right to have an abortion, my right to divorce, my right to ill-gained wealth. Unfortunately many of the rights of our society not only crush ourselves but they also crush our neighbours. Our love is gone and God is not glorified.

Easter is when we celebrate the coming of Christ to the world, to die for our sins. Christ gave up his rights as God to become man, so that God's name may be glorified and that we may have eternal life. That thought of Christ's supreme sacrifice ought to make us aware that our rights are not important. Rather we ought to put aside our rights and ask, "How is God being glorified in our lives?"

Some of us are graduating soon; others of us will continue to study; some will be working. Christ wants those who are in him to be with him, that they may see his glory because of the love of the Father. Is that what we desire? To be with Christ and still to be in the world,fulfilling the calling to which God has called us. Christ does not want us out of the world, but in it. But not of it. He wants us in it so that the world may see and may believe that we are one in Christ, and thereby give glory to the Father. Christ recognizes that this is no easy task, therefore he prays that the Father will protect his people. God is there with us as we carry out our responsibilities in the world; if we ask he will give us what we need. The world may persecute us, but nothing can separate us from his love.

Let us put aside "our rights" and rather exercise our right to tell others of Christ, to love our neighbour, and to use the creation wisely. That may mean selling all we have and to go to a distant land, to live simply in the face of life-destroying materialism, or to give up an education because God is calling us elsewhere. Let us be used by Christ, in all wisdom and love, for God's glory.

Have you ever wondered...

...why the illiterates that "use" the library need to proclaim themselves by going out the wrong doors?

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grants, enrollment is expected to increase, and through it all--the community that is--Redeemer College continues to change and adjust. Perhaps as I look forward and backward in time that is what seems to be the remarkable thing.

I have been a part of a great change at Redeemer College. I have been part of a transition, the past is now but memory and the future holds developments that will change Redeemer from that which I now know. The Redeemer College of my tenth-, twelfth-, or fifteenth-year Class Reunion will be much different then the Redeemer of the present.

Waxing sentimental and perhaps a bit philosophical, perhaps that is both the joy and sadness of ending each school year. That which has passed cannot be relived, it has faded into memory. The future has not been and stands unknown, full of hope and anticipation. For the graduates the memories may be all that remains after the parting of ways and the climactic change graduation symbolizes. We leave never to return, the memory of our class being nothing but a flag fluttering in the breeze, but we know we have been, we have lived, we have laughed, and we carry our experiences with us.

End-of-Year Dance

Come on out to the last get together of the year

The Triemstra Boys Are Putting On Another Dance As The Final Send-off Of The Year

HELD AT: Ancaster High School Gymnasium
DATE: April 30, 1987
TIME: 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. After the 'Last Supper'
COST: $4.00 in advance
$5.00 at the door
MUSIC: Professional Disc Jockey with Secular and Christian Fare

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM DORM #9

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